

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 25, 2003
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 2, 2003
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 514

Introduced by Assembly Member Kehoe

February 18, 2003

An act to add Section 111 to the Water Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 514, as amended, Kehoe. Water meters.

Existing law requires the installation of a water meter as a condition of water service provided pursuant to a connection installed on and after January 1, 1992. Existing law declares that the state goal for measurement of water use is the achievement, on or before January 1, 1992, of the installation of water meters on all new water service connections after that date to systems owned or operated by a water purveyor.

This bill would require certain urban water suppliers that receive water from the Central Valley Project under a water service contract, on or before January 1, ~~2008~~ 2013, to install water meters on *not less than 97% of* all service connections to residential and nonagricultural commercial buildings constructed prior to January 1, 1992, that are located in their service area.

The bill would require these urban water suppliers, on and after January 1, ~~2009~~ 2013, but subject to a certain exception, to charge

customers for water based on the actual volume of deliveries, as measured by a water meter.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. *The Legislature finds and declares all of the*
2 *following:*

3 (a) *Water metering and volumetric pricing are among the most*
4 *efficient water conservation tools. Water metering provides*
5 *information on how much water is being used and facilitates the*
6 *imposition of a water rate structure that encourages water*
7 *conservation.*

8 (b) *Without water meters it is impossible for homeowners and*
9 *businesses to know how much water they are using, thereby*
10 *inhibiting conservation, punishing those who conserve, and*
11 *rewarding those who waste water.*

12 (c) *Existing law requires the installation of a water meter as a*
13 *condition of water service provided pursuant to a connection*
14 *installed on or after January 1, 1992, but the continuing*
15 *widespread absence of water meters and the lack of volumetric*
16 *pricing could result in the inefficient use of water for municipal*
17 *and industrial uses.*

18 (d) *Municipal and industrial water contractors that receive*
19 *water from the federal Central Valley Project are required to install*
20 *water meters as a condition of water service, and in the absence*
21 *of that installation, those contractors risk losing their water*
22 *supplies. The loss of these water supplies would have devastating*
23 *effects on the customers of those contractors, as well as the entire*
24 *state. Other water supply sources would have to be found to*
25 *replace that foregone water supply.*

26 (e) *At a time when the state is struggling in its efforts to cut back*
27 *on the use of Colorado River water in accordance with federal*
28 *requirements, Californians cannot afford to be deprived of tens of*
29 *thousands of acre-feet of water because some municipalities*
30 *decline to do what most municipalities have been doing for*
31 *decades, which is to install and use water meters.*

32 (f) *This act addresses a subject matter of statewide concern,*
33 *and it is the intent of the Legislature to supersede and preempt any*



1 *enactment of a county or city, including a charter county or charter*
2 *city, or other local public agency, to which this act applies.*

3 *SEC. 2.* Section 111 is added to the Water Code, to read:

4 111. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any
5 urban water supplier that, as of January 1, 2004, receives water
6 from the federal Central Valley Project under a water service
7 contract executed pursuant to Section 485h(c) of Title 43 of the
8 United States Code with the Bureau of Reclamation of the United
9 States Department of the Interior shall do both of the following:

10 (1) On or before January 1, ~~2008~~ 2013, install water meters on
11 *not less than 97 percent of* all service connections to residential and
12 nonagricultural commercial buildings constructed prior to January
13 1, 1992, located within its service area.

14 (2) Unless a contract that was executed prior to January 1,
15 2004, provides otherwise, on or after January 1, ~~2009~~ 2013, charge
16 customers for water based on the actual volume of deliveries, as
17 measured by a water meter.

18 ~~(b) This section, which ensures the ability of specified water~~
19 ~~suppliers to meet the water supply needs of their customers,~~
20 ~~addresses a subject matter of statewide concern, and it is the intent~~
21 ~~of the Legislature that, upon enactment, it supersede and preempt~~
22 ~~all enactments of counties, cities, including Charter counties and~~
23 ~~cities, and other local public agencies to which subdivision (a)~~
24 ~~applies.~~

25 *(b) This section, which ensures the ability of certain urban*
26 *water suppliers to meet the water supply needs of their customers,*
27 *addresses a subject matter of statewide concern and applies to all*
28 *counties and cities, including charter counties and charter cities,*
29 *and local public agencies that are urban water suppliers that are*
30 *described in subdivision (a).*

31 (c) For the purposes of this section, “urban water supplier”
32 shall have the same meaning as set forth in Section 10617 and
33 “water meter” shall have the same meaning as set forth in Section
34 110.